View from the
Blackdown Hills

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National Trust take new steps to repair monument

THE National Trust have announced they will take further steps this year to find a solution in the ongoing repair of Wellington Monument.

The monument, which commemorates the Duke of Wellington's victory in the Battle of Waterloo, was completed in 1854 and was taken over buy the National Trust in 1934, but was closed to the public in 2007 amid fears over public safety.

Since then improvement works have been undertaken in a bid to reopen it to the public, including enhancing the car park and erecting safety fencing, as well as repairing and rehanging the door.

However, the tower still remains closed.

An open day was held last year where temporary safety measures were put in place to allow members of the public the chance to climb the tower for the first time in more than seven years.

However, the National Trust has now issued a statement reassuring the public they are committed to ensuring a future for the monument, but they have also warned finding a solution will continue to be a lengthy and drawn out process.

And Helen Sharp, Consultancy Manager for the National Trust, announced that positive steps will be taken this year find a solution, beginning with further surveys by specialist consultants to find the best way forward in restoring the tower.

She said: "This year we are investing considerable resources to appoint consultants to develop a repair approach for the monument.

"It presents such a complicated engineering challenge that even with the previous survey work carried out, we simply do not know enough about why the monument is failing to propose a solution that will safeguard its future.

"We hope to appoint consultants in the next month or so and it is likely that they will advise we undertake a programme of monitoring before design options can be explored."

Ms Sharp added: "We take our responsibility of looking after the monument on behalf of the nation very seriously. But we are also a charity with limited resources. Whatever the solution is likely to be, we will have to raise money externally to make it happen.

"We hope this update is useful and gives re-assurance that we are taking the future of the monument seriously."

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Daredevils break skydiving record

PICTURED are some of the daredevils free-falling at sunset over Dunkeswell

SKYDIVE UK Ltd, based at Dunkeswell Airfield, has beaten the world record for the most tandem skydives at single venue within 24 hours.

They chose the longest day of the year – June 21st – and it proved to be a smart move.

Jumping solidly for 16 hours and 10 minutes, they did 281 tandem descents, beating the previous Guinness World Record which was 251, held by Germany.

"This was an incredible experience and it only proves how much we can do as a team," said Jason Farrant, managing director at Skydive UK.

"We are the biggest skydiving school in the south of England, and we are happy this has put us on the map."

Most people who skydived raised money for charities of their choice.

"Not only this was the experience of their lives, a lot of good has come out of it." said Linda Bulpin, charity co-ordinator for Skydive UK Ld.

The age of skydivers ranged from 16 to 87, with many of the jumpers living close to the skydiving school near Honiton. But daredevils travelled from as far afield as London, the Isle of Wight and even Scotland

"Unfortunately a lot of people who had booked did not turn up at the event and did not advise us of this.

"This made our nerves tickle a bit as we were unsure of the total number at one point," said Ms Bulpin.

"Luckily the atmosphere was so fantastic! Lots of friends and families, who originally came just to watch the event, decided they would like to have a go at it and booked in there and then. So we confidently beat the record and it all happened the best it could have."

Daniel Hutchings, 50, from Surrey liked it so much that, between 7am in the morning and 11am, he took part in three tandem skydives.

All of them counted towards the world record.

He had never jumped before and said: "I only wish I found out about this sport earlier in my life."

Now he'd like to become one of the qualified skydivers and is hoping to get his skydiving licence in the near future.

The whole event was overseen by two independent witnesses from British Parachute Association, to make sure the event can be officially recognised.

Skydive UK is waiting to hear back from Guinness World Records.

Pre-schoolers pedal their way to £400

CHILDREN who took part in the Culmstock Pre-School pedal and push fundraiser

CULMSTOCK Pre-School held a "Pedal and Push" event to raise funds for their Forest Schools.

It was so successful that the children raised more than £400.

The children arrived with scooters, bikes, tractors and push chairs and pedalled and pushed their way around Culmstock Primary School's playground.

The pre-school would like to thank the primary school for the loan of their playground.

The monies raised will go towards funding the pre-school's Forest School, where pupils get to spend time outside learning about flora and fauna, but most importantly having lots of fun finding, building and creating things.

Culmstock Pre-School offers children a fabulous opportunity to make friends, learn and play in a home from home setting.

With its small numbers, experienced teachers, and nurturing atmosphere Culmstock Pre-School is a wonderful setting for children to start their educational journey.

NEWS *briefs*

Dog walkers needed

A CHARITY for the elderly and terminally ill and their pets is seeking volunteer dog walkers in Dunkeswell.

Sally Collins of The Cinnamon Trust said: "We seek to keep owner and pet together for as long as possible with the help of volunteers when day-to-day care poses a problem.

"We are looking for dog walking volunteers to help a resident of Dunkeswell.

"All volunteers help in the ways that are most appropriate to them, and teams take it in turn to visit housebound owners.

"Any help you are able to give will be very gratefully accepted."

Those interested can contact Sally on 01736 758707 or sallycollins@cinnamon.org.uk.

Church summer supper raises £270

THE Church Room, Hemyock was full with hungry guests for a fundraising Summer Supper organised by the Friends of St Mary's.

A wide and varied selection of cold meats, quiches and salads were on offer followed by delicious desserts including pavlova, summer pudding, chocolate cups, trifle, cheese and biscuits and coffee.

The evening was such a success there were requests that a similar event be held later in the year.

The event raised £270.

NOLI CEDERE

View from the Blackdown Hills

is a community newspaper and welcomes contributions of news and photos from individuals, schools, organisations and businesses within the Blackdown Hills.

Please email your contributions to lisa@pemedia.co.uk jackie@pemedia.co.uk or blackdown@tindlenews.co.uk

For advertising please call Rose Siwek on 01297 35750

Next steps planned for road improvements

INITIAL ideas for improving transport links in and out of Honiton have been presented to residents, as part of a series of exhibitions taking place this month.

Local councils have been working together to produce a detailed study on the A30/A303 road between Honiton and Broadway, through the Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, following years of campaigning by local businesses and road users for the route to be developed.

Devon County Council has partnered with authorities in Somerset, Wiltshire and Dorset, in conjunction with the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership, in an effort to lobby the Government for improvements to the corridor.

And a drop-in session held recetnly at Honiton's Beehive centre - the first of five taking place across the area – gave residents the chance to hear about the progress of the study so far and the next steps for improving the route.

Andrew Leadbetter, Devon County Council's cabinet member for economy and growth, said: "Improvements to the entire A303 is a priority for our partnership, so we are pleased that the Government is undertaking a feasibility study to consider future improvements along the whole length.

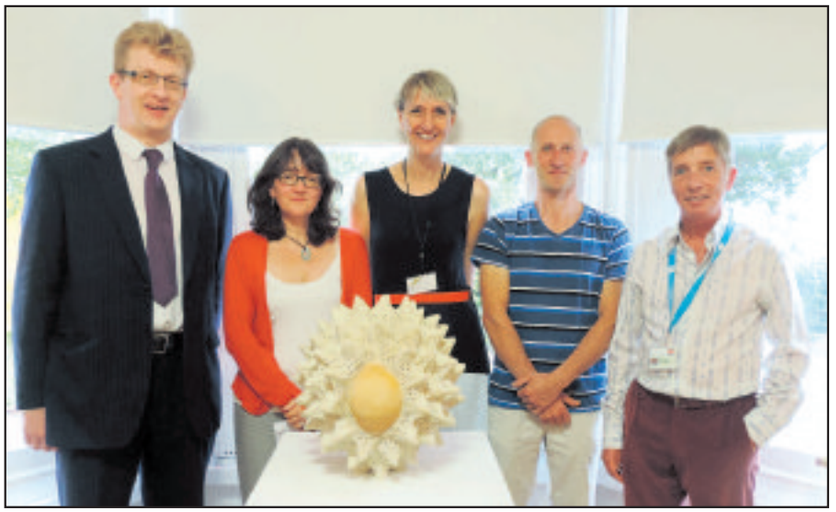
"We, however, recognise that securing improvements is a staged process and our aim is to upgrade the route between Honiton and Broadway to support economic growth and increase resilience for our communities."

As part of the study, a recent survey found 97 per cent of road users want to see improvements to the route, known as the "Holiday Highway".

The study results will feed into the Highways Agency's review of the route, and the findings are expected to be published later this year.

Councillor Leadbetter added: "Feedback from communities is crucial if we are to put forward an effective business case to the Government for improvements to sections of the road.

"In addition, it will also help us put together affordable and deliverable options that are sensitive to the protected landscape."



Brian Goodison-Blanks (left) from event sponsor Bearnes, Hampton & Littlewood, dished out the prizes at the Thelma Hulbert Gallery to Sara Dudman (centre left) and Jez Heeler (centre right). Also pictured are gallery curator Angela Blackwell (centre) and EDDC culture champion John O'Leary

Fine art on display at gallery's new exhibition

SOME of Devon's top artists were celebrated at the opening of Honiton's Thelma Hulbert Gallery's (THG), latest exhibition this weekend.

The THG open exhibition brought together a range of artworks from sculptors, painters and designers from across the South West, and prizes were dished out to some of the region's top talent.

Gallery curator Angela Blackwell said: "This year drew a record number of applications from artists across the region.

"There is such a wealth of talent in the South West and THG is always keen to support and encourage emerging Devon-based artists."

The exhibition, which opened on Saturday, featured work by both established artists and emerging talent, and gallery staff were joined by East Devon District Council's culture champion John O'Leary to present the awards.

The main prize went to Sarah Dudman and Debbie Locke, with Jo Golesworthy and Jez Heeler named runners-up.

The top prize of £400 was sponsored by Bearnes, Hampton & Littlewood auctioneers, with other awards offered by Bradleys estate agents and Haughty Culture florists.

Winning artist Sara Dudman added: "It has been a lot of fun and we are very grateful for the enthusiasm everyone has shown towards the project – we are in the process of creating a whole series of works."

Gallery-goers will also get to have their say, by voting for the "Visitor's Choice" prize, awarded at the end of the exhibition, which runs until August 23rd.

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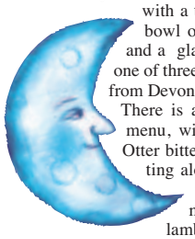
Hidden gem of the Blackdown Hills

The term hidden gem has been used before, but it certainly applies to this lovely country pub. In the middle of nowhere, but somewhere, hidden away off the beaten track in Clayhidon, you will find the Half Moon Inn.

Set in the beautiful Blackdown Hills AONB, it is surrounded by countryside yet just 10 minutes from Wellington and the M5. Winding green lanes, historical landscapes and hedgerows that are centuries old. Footpaths abound and stunning views, but none more stunning than the view from the Half Moon Inn beer garden. The secluded garden has the most outstanding view across a valley for miles around. Enjoy the sunshine with a traditional Ploughman's or bowl of plump Brixham mussels and a glass of something chilled or one of three carefully selected real ales from Devon or Somerset



There is an interesting and eclectic menu, with some pub classics like Otter bitter battered cod & chips sitting alongside local Venison loin with chilli chocolate. Rosemary & red wine marinated lamb rump with dauphinoise potatoes, or locally caught trout fillets with samphire. The emphasis is definitely on sourcing fresh local produce, as the Half Moon has just received another Taste of the West award for the sixth year running. The Sunday Roast is the best we've tried and could win it's own award with such tender beef, a host of different fresh vegetables, proper gravy and the most magnificent Yorkshire puddings, Do leave room for the other type of pudding though. Maybe a delicious Pannacotta or a Sticky Toffee.

Making the most of the August Bank Holiday weekend, the Half Moon will be raising the bar as usual, with a "Ska-beque" – a great sounding event with a Caribbean theme.

Lots of local music, beers and ciders, a Ska band, DJ's playing Ska and all types of Reggae, with lots of Jamaican street food on the Ska-beque, Jerk Chicken, Rice & Peas & Curried Goat. There will also be Cocktails, a limbo dancing challenge, a raffle and a prize for best dressed. Friends of St Andrews Church will also be holding their annual fete in nearby Garland's Bower. Why not combine a visit to both on the Bank Holiday Monday, there's definitely something for everyone…. Find us on facebook for more details.

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'Digs for Dogs' reaches £50,000

FERNE Animal Sanctuary's "New Digs for Dogs" appeal has topped a whopping £50,000.

The sanctuary at Wambrook, near Chard, recently launched their £1million project to build a new enhanced kennel block, improved grooming and veterinary care room, information hub, social unit, offices, reception and purpose built rehoming centre at their site.

While £500,000 has been saved from various sources over many years towards the project, the charity still needs to raise the remaining £500,000 through donations.

Jenny Wheadon, Director of Ferne Animal Sanctuary said: "It is truly wonderful news that our appeal has now reached its first milestone.

"I am completely overwhelmed at the number of people who are donating and running all sorts of events to help us raise the money needed for this project.

She added: "Every penny raised will go towards not only building the facility, but also equipping and maintaining it too.

"We now have a list of equipment that businesses may like to sponsor, and would be particularly interested to hear from anyone who may be able to help in this way.

"We are all extremely grateful for the generous support received – and so are all the animals. We can't thank everyone enough. It just goes to show how loved our four-legged friends are.

"I would ask everyone to please continue to donate if they can, as we still have a very long way to go."

Fundraising packs for the appeal and details of how to donate can be obtained by calling Ferne Animal Sanctuary on 01460 65214.

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Celebrating 40 years of terrier racing in Yarcombe

A POPULAR village event in Yarcombe this year marks its 40th anniversary.

Yarcombe Terrior Racing first took place in the village in 1974 and was the brainchild of local farmer John Salter and friends, who dreamed up the event over a pint in the local pub as a means to help raise funds for the parish church.

After 40 years, the annual races have become something of a cult among the local farming community, who scramble every year to enter their Jack Russells, whippets, lurchers and sheepdogs ina number of different classes.

Not only that, but hundreds of tourists and holidaymakers visit the event each year to enter their family pets against the farm dogs – leading to faithful crowds of more than 1,500 people.

A true community event, the entire village rallies round to put it together, and as well as racing there are also craft tents, local food and drink, and games for children.

This year sponsors Otter Brewery have created a special commemorative beer called Hot Terrier, to mark the 40th anniversary.

The popular event will take place on Saturday, August 2nd in the village from 8pm.

And after 40 years, Mr Salter has handed over the organisation of the event to the next generation, but still enters his dog every year and will of course be entering again this year.

MEMBERS of the Breathe Easy Blackdown Hills group

MEMBERS of the Breathe Easy Blackdown Hills group recently enjoyed a trip to Dartmoor.

After admiring all the scenery and the animals roaming on the moor, the group stopped for tea at Badgers Holt.

The sun shone all day and all who went thoroughly enjoyed the trip.

The Breathe Easy Blackdown Hills meet between March and December on the last Wednesday of the month at Dunkeswell Village Hall, between 2pm and 4pm.

They have a wide variety of guest speakers. The speaker for the August meeting will be from the Devon Air Ambulance, and in September there will be a talk on the Battle of Britain.

Visitors are always welcome. For more information contact secretary on 01404 891707.

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Village pub helps to combat loneliness in rural communities

A VILLAGE pub in the Blackdown Hills had joined forces with the Royal Voluntary Service to help elderly men meet new people and combat loneliness in rural communities.

The Blagdon Inn, in Blagdon Hill near Taunton, is working in partnership with the charity to help older men in the community meet new friends and enjoy delicious food.

The service centres around arranging for a volunteer to bring an older gentleman to the Blagdon Inn where they can both enjoy a free light lunch.

The service, which will run on the first Tuesday of every month at 12 noon starting on September 2nd, is calling on local people to dedicate a couple of hours a month to volunteer, to help combat loneliness for elderly people living in isolated, rural communties.

Nigel Capel, Blagdon Inn Director said: "Many people find that as they grow older, their mobility may decline, which means they can't get out and about as much as they would like, which can lead to feelings of isolation and loneliness.

"The new Royal Voluntary Service lunch club will provide older gentlemen in the community with the opportunity to get out and about and make new friends, which can make a big difference to wellbeing and quality of life."

Previous research by the charity found that 190,000 older men in Britain suffer from feelings of loneliness, and 36 per cent spend more than 12 hours of the day on their own.

Kirsty Jenssen, Royal Voluntary Service manager, said: "This is a really vital service for older gentlemen in Somerset. Having the opportunity to get out of the house to have lovely food and the chance to meet new friends makes a massive difference to the older people who use our services.

"Our volunteers are fantastic and they really enjoy what they do; they get as much out of volunteering as they put in."

For more information about becoming a volunteer for the service, or if you or a member of your family would like to know more about using the service, contact Kirsty Jenssen on 07919 540487 or kirsty.jenssen@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk.

Get snapping Somerset's hedgerows

BUDDING photographers still have time to enter the Somerset Hedge Group 2014 digital photographic competition.

The theme for the competition this year is "hedgerow landscapes through the seasons" and comptition organisers are looking for a range of photographs which best capture Somerset's hedgerows in all their glory.

With sponsorship from CPRE, the Mendip Hills AONB and Blackdown Hills AONB and Marshall Agroecology Ltd, this competition will run from now until October 1st 2014, when the competition will close.

Prize money is up for grabs in two classes: open and junior (aged under 15). The competition is for amateur photographers with a maximum of three entries per person.

Digital images only.

For an entry form and competition rules, visit www.somerset-hedgegroup.org.uk.

Entries should be sent to Dr Jon Marshall: jon.marshall@agroecol.co.uk.

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Blackdowns clubs and societies

HEMYOCK WI

PRESIDENT Lyn Taylor welcomed members to the July Meeting and explained that the speaker would do her presentation first and the business would follow after refreshments.

Lyn introduced Gillian Coates from Lyme Regis. Her talk was entitled 'Chocolate Amour'. Gillian is a chocolatier, who has gathered much knowledge regarding the production of quality chocolate which has been around for about 2000 years, though milk chocolate was not invented until 1875. The darkest chocolate is apparently more healthy but if it is too bitter, it probably means it has been over-roasted.

There are four major varieties of trees used in the production of chocolate. The beans which are gathered by hand, have to be dried enough to lose 60 per cent of their weight.

It was not long before members were handling beans and cocoa butter and tasting chocolate. Gillian made some chocolate, which was later eaten when coffee was served.

Gillian judged the competition for three home-made chocolate biscuits. There were eight entries but it was Wendy who came first followed by Jean and Maureen.

It was Bridget's hydrangea which won the other competition.

Eight members said they would accept the invitation to a cream tea at Silverton on Friday, August 22nd. Most of those present said they would have lunch on Monday, July 28th at the Strand Stores in Culmstock. Lyn said she had arranged a change in the programme and on August 5th members would visit Sheppy's Cider Enterprise for a tour of the premises and a supper.

At the September Meeting, Lyn Taylor would be showing members how to do Needle Felting. The competition would be for an item made from felt. The raffle in September would be donated to Denman College.

Hemyock WI meet the first Tuesday of each month in Forbes Lounge at 7.30pm.

For details phone Lyn on 01823 608104 or Brenda on 01823 681592.

BISHOPSWOOD LADIES

CHAIRPERSON Tricia Taylor was delighted to welcome a large group of visitors to join members for their open meeting, when the speaker was Chris Sperring MBE of the Hawk and Owl Trust and Somerset Wildlife Trust.

Chris regularly appears on BBC 4's Living World programme.

Barn owls have been of particular interest to Chris for many years. They are long winged and are camouflaged from high flying predators by the colour of their wings. They feed on small mammals, especially short tailed voles, whose habitat is rough grassland. They nest in old trees buidings, caves and cliffs.

Their numbers have declined drastically in the last two years due to adverse weather conditions. Due to the cold and wet very few offspring were produced by the owls in 2012 and 2013, and in early 2014 there were only about 1,000 breeding pairs left in the wild in England. They are also totally dependent on having areas of rough grassland in which their prey can thrive.

The Somerset Community Barn Owl Project was set up to try to increase the number of barn owls breeding in the county by getting communities to become involved in this conservation project. Farmers were contacted to encourage them to leave margins of the rough grass so essential to barn owls around their fields, schools were visited, and nest boxes and information were provided for individual parishes. All this has stimulated interest and provided local volunteers to monitor nest boxes. Great excitement is generated when a nest box is inhabited and young owls result.

So far 2014 seems to be a successful year for barn owls, with many owl pairs already producing a second brood.

Chris Sperring's huge enthusiam for his subject inspired the whole audience, who were then delighted to be introduced to Bellatrix, his captive bred barn owl.

The meeting then resumed its usual form with copious refreshments provided by the committee.

The August meeting will be replaced by the summer outing to Plymouth.

BLACKDOWN HILLS GARDENING CLUB

THE club's visit to Cadhay House and gardens turned out to be splendid on a glorious Summer afternoon.

More than 30 members enjoyed the informative, humorous tour of the 1550 manor house followed by a stroll around the walled gardens, comprising of medieval fish ponds, herbaceous borders and secret garden.

Members look forward to the final outing of this year with a visit to South Wood Farm, Cotleigh, on Wednesday, August 20th at 6pm. There is a large country garden surrounding a listed 17th century Devon farmhouse.

The cost for this will be £4 with visitors an additional £3.

Supper will follow at the Sidmouth Arms, Upottery, for those wishing to eat afterwards.

On Wednesday, September 17th at 7.30pm, in Churchinford Hall, a presentation will be given by Mary Benger of Burrow Farm Gardens on 'Gardening Made Easier'.

CLAYHIDON FRIENDS

MEMBERS were lucky to have a beautiful evening for the meeting this month as members and their spouses and friends spent a sociable time in the tea-room at Stentwood Farm Common Loaf Bakery, Dunkeswell.

They were treated to a delicious vegetable soup with feta cheese and a bread roll, then cake and tea and coffee, all served by the bakery community members.

After eating, some members were shown around the small bakery.

The daily bread-making takes place between 1.30am and 10am, and a great variety of rustic breads and sweet buns are made; many with spelt or rye flour.

The community sell their breads at farmers' markets in the south-west and also at fairs and county shows, but a trip to the Stentwood Farm for a light meal is a must.

SAMPFORD ARUNDEL WI

ON a journey in time from 700 million years ago to modern days, the story of glass was told to Sampford Arundel WI by Dr Francis Burroughs, from the Bristol Blue Glass company.

Formed naturally as obsidium, it was gradually refined by man into the beautiful creations of today – still being made by his company.

Pieces from Ancient Egypt to Graal glass of the 20th century were passed round by members.

The national AGM had been very good, with excellent speakers and a good discussion of the resolution on organ donation.

Members were encouraged to give the many courses and events arranged by Somerset WI a try – usually extremely well worth it.

But there's a lot on for Sampford, as usual, the village fete and flower show on August 19th, lunch at Lakeview Manor on August 21st, a quiz night, a guided walk round Wellington, a planning meeting for all the local WIs, and a cream tea.

News about the parish room was good – a grant had been received for the toilets to be improved. Pleas for better lighting if there was any money left over were made

The 'knitting for peace' has been very successful, and different items are now needed. A book club was proposed – sets of books may be hired from the library. Looking even further along, thought was given to the centenary of the British WI next year – the AGM will be broadcast live the day itself, in September, and is for individual WIs to celebrate. Somerset is putting on a musical extravaganza in April – two members of Sampford Arundel are in the cast.

SMEATHARPE WI

THE meeting held on July 3rd was chaired by Vice President Liz Tucker.

Brenda Calcraft, Link Delegate, gave a report on the NFWI AGM, which took place at Leeds. The resolution on organ donation was passed with a resounding majority.

Thanks to the brilliant organisation of Ann Salmon, the trip to Portsmouth went like clockwork and was most enjoyable.

Members were thanked for all their work and support at the Air Days, event which proved to be a very successful fundraiser.

The Supper Club will meet for a meal at the Aviator at Dunkeswell on July 31st.

The skittles season will start with a fun evening at the Sidmouth Arms, all members welcome, plus husbands, lovers and friends on August 28th.

Robert Turner who helps to keep the RAF Archive at Westonzoyland spoke with great enthusiasm about the history of aviation and the part the local airfields played in both the first and second world wars.

Members were particularly interested to hear about the first intrepid lady pilots.

Intrepid lady pilot Teressa Summerhayes's paper airplane made the longest flight and won the competition, and her Rose was flower of the month.

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Tales of love and war in the Blackdowns

A NEW book exploring the stories of the 150 men and women from the Upper Culm Valley who served in the Great War will be lauched later this month.

With the help of diaries, letters home and the recollections of family members, local researchers have assembled a vivid picture of how war affected one tiny corner of the West Country, culminating in the 180 page book entitled: "The Upper Culm Valley Before, During and After the Great War', which will be launched on August 19th.

A total of 68 men from Clayhidon, Hemyock and Culmstock died in the prime of their lives. A further 90 men and women served and survived to tell the tale, although many were reluctant to retell the horrors they had seen.

While Howard Wide, a prolific letter writer, sat in his trench in northern France listening to German soldiers singing and shouting across No Man's Land, his family sent him parcels of eggs and fresh cream. He was one of the 775 men of the 9th Battalion of the Devonshire regiment who went over the top on the first day of the Battle of the Somme; 463 of them were listed killed, missing or wounded.

Howard was blown into a trench by a shell but he ran on towards the enemy lines and was the only one of his six-man machine gun team to survive the day unscathed.

The former Taunton School pupil and devout member of Silver Street Baptist Church had written, the previous Christmas: "It is difficult to reconcile the Angel's message of peace and goodwill toward men with this awful struggle of nation against nation."

He endured many more bloody encounters until a bullet caught him in the leg. He waited 10 hours to be rescued by a party of Australians. Two weeks later the Armistice was signed.

Elizabeth Lutley was one of four women from the valley who served abroad. She volunteered to join the British Red Cross as a cook, surviving an air raid in London, which "most horribly frightened" her.

Sailing on an Italian troop ship from Italy to Salonika in northern Greece she was one of only four women among 1,100 men, including an Italian doctor so handsome that she longed to fall ill.

The German naval threat was never far away. "The danger is always at hand," she wrote to her aunt, "but knowing many precautions are taken it's no use worrying about it".

The Bright family, from Clayhidon, lost both their twin sons. Hubert, who had worked as a servant, joined the Rifle Brigade. His comrades survived gas attacks, saw action on the Somme and fought in the Battle of Arras, where he was killed in 1917 at the age of 20.

His name is listed on the Clayhidon War Memorial and also on the memorial in the Arras British Military Cemetery.

Within a year his brother Reginald, who had joined the Royal Navy at 15, was washed overboard from the destroyer HMS Mons in heavy seas in 1918 and never found. He is remembered on the Plymouth Naval Memorial on The Hoe and beside Hubert's name at Clayhidon.

There is a poignant class photo of the Hemyock Board School taken in 1908. It shows the faces of boys who were all to serve in one way or another a few years later, watched over by their headmaster, Mr Baxter.

Their stories and many others are told in this unique book, which is supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Blackdown Hills AONB and DEFRA. Copies are available from Hemyock Post Office or by emailing info@blackdownarchives.org.uk price £10 plus post and packaging.

Family disaster: Charlotte and Frederick Bright, whose twin sons were killed

Elizabeth Lutley (third from left), one of four local women who served abroad

Boys destined for war: this picture of the Hemyock Board School in 1908 includes the head, Mr Baxter. In all 22 young men from Hemyock died in the war

Village hosts war exhibition

AN exhibition will be held at Buckland St Mary Church featuring details about the village's fallen war heroes.

The exhibition froms part of a project started by parishioners to find out more about the names on the village war memorial.

On show at the church during the August bank holiday weekend will be a display featuring the 13 men who lost their lives during WWI and the two others who fell during WWII.

There will be short biographies of each man, backed up by excerpts from census records, Battalion War Diaries, photographs, wills, surviving service records, newspaper reports and school records.

There will also be displays of contemporary documents including photographs of the Western Front, and of Buckland St Mary, maps, drawings, satire, poetry and propaganda posters – and even music of the time.

The 19th century Buckland St Mary Parish Registers, normally under the safe-keeping of the Somerset Heritage Centre, will be loaned for the occasion.

The "Vanished Lives Exhibition" will be on in Buckland St Mary church from Saturday, August 23rd - Monday, August 25th from 10.30am-4pm each day, with a service of remembrance at 10.30am on Sunday 24th.

Tea, coffee, soft drinks, cakes and biscuits will be available throughout.

Any donations received will go to the Royal British Legion.

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Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding

FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

The past year has seen increasing financial pressure on all publicly funded bodies, with protected landscapes no exception. I am proud to say that the Blackdown Hills AONB Partnership and our staff team have responded positively and creatively to the challenge.

If we are to continue our work conserving and enhancing this precious landscape, we must look to new ways of funding projects. One of our major achievements this year has been the development of *Blackdown Hills Natural Futures*. This exciting project will involve local people and graduate trainees in discovering, conserving and celebrating the wildlife and habitats on our doorsteps. We now await the decision on our substantial bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) which we hope will enable Blackdown Hills Natural Futures to go ahead and bring in much-needed support for local communities and the wildlife of the AONB. Funds have already been pledged by: South West Water Charitable Donations Committee; Wessex Water; Wessex Watermark; South Somerset District Council Community Grant; Viscount Amory's Charitable Trust, Somerset County Councillor James Hunt and Councillors Andrew Moulding, Ray Radford and myself from Devon County Council.

Another great success this year was the *What Makes a View?* project which gave people the chance to speak up for much-loved local views. This work, funded through the European CORDIALE initiative and generously matched by Devon County Council, once again showed how working in new ways and with new sources of funding can help us achieve our conservation goals. I was delighted when the project won 'highly commended' at the 2013 Landscape Institute's awards in London and I would like to thank everyone who took part.

This year also saw the completion of Making it Local programme, which delivered £1.74m of EU LEADER funding across both the Blackdown Hills and East Devon AONBs. We are now working on the application for the next round of rural development funding to bring vital grants into the two AONBs and improve the prosperity of our important rural communities.

Despite the challenges we face, we have a clear vision for the coming years thanks to the completion of the Blackdown Hills AONB's new Management Plan for 2014-2019. This has been a major undertaking over the last year and my thanks go to everyone who has contributed comments and expertise. The new plan will give every organisation in our partnership a strong guide as we look forward to the next five years working together in caring for the Blackdown Hills AONB.

Cllr Paul Diviani
Chairman, Blackdown Hills AONB Partnership

Hoare frost from Golden Lane by Gary Spencer – winner of the *What Makes a View?* landscape photography competition 2013

Blackdown Hills
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

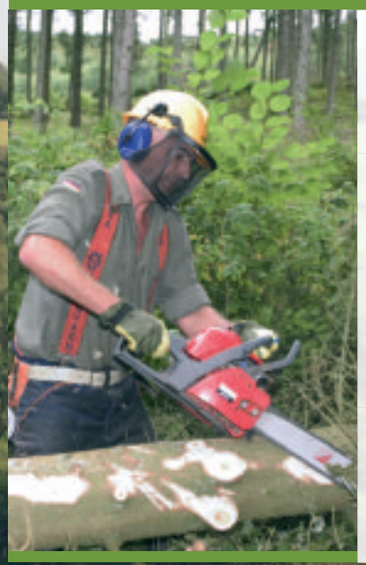
Blackdown Hills AONB Partnership, St Ivel House, Hemyock, Cullompton, Devon EX15 3SJ
Tel: 01823 680681 Email: blackdownhills@devon.gov.uk

Natural Beauty - a review of 2013-2014

LANDSCAPE

- *What Makes a View?* used arts and science-based approaches to examine the importance of views in the Blackdown Hills as part of the European CORDIALE project funded by INTERREG IVa and Devon County Council.
- We completed a major funding bid to HLF for the *Blackdown Hills Natural Futures* project, to help communities record, enhance and celebrate the habitats on their doorsteps.
- We launched *Dunkeswell War Stories*, a film-based online learning resource funded by HLF telling the stories of the American airbase at Dunkeswell during the Second World War.
- We developed *Blackdowns' Metal Makers* with Somerset County Council and The Carousel Project to engage local schools and families with the AONB's distinctive heritage of early ironworking.
- We supported the Somerset Bat Group and Somerset Environmental Records Centre in carrying out the third Blackdown Hills Big Bat Survey, to monitor species and inform future conservation.
- With funding from HLF and our partners at Forestry Commission/Neroche scheme, we helped to deliver the Blackdown Hills Trust's Force for Nature project to increase practical volunteering activity.

SUSTAINABILITY



- We supported the establishment of the Blackdown Hills Rough Grazing Association which shares expertise on managing the AONB's rough, wildlife-rich grazing land, and is a legacy of the Beef & Butterflies project funded by Making it Local and Natural England.
- We supported several communities interested in developing neighbourhood plans, commented on local plans and responded to major planning applications such as a new housing site at Churchinford.
- We were actively involved in policy discussions on future works to the A303, seeking to minimise environmental impact whilst improving safety.
- We provided advice and guidance to local planning authorities and developers on landscape and planning issues related to wind turbine and solar PV developments.
- We supported 10 local community projects through the Sustainable Development Fund, awarding grants totalling £16,200.
- We launched the Blackdown Hills Countryside Fund, administered by Devon Community Foundation, to raise funds to support local community wildlife and heritage projects.
- We continued to support Making it Local, a community-led European funding programme which invested £1.74m in projects in the Blackdown Hills and East Devon AONBs, which finished in December 2014, and started community consultation for the next round of funding.

COMMUNICATION AND MANAGEMENT

- In consultation with local people, we developed the Blackdown Hills AONB Management Plan 2014-2019. This will guide the work of the AONB Partnership for the next five years.
- We promoted nearly 100 outdoor events, supporting local groups and encouraging people to experience, enjoy and learn about the countryside.
- We developed the Blackdown Hills Volunteering Hub, part of the Force for Nature project, to provide an online portal to all the countryside volunteering opportunities offered by our partners within the AONB.
- We have expanded our social network audience to over 2000 people, providing a valuable source of information about local countryside news and events.

www.blackdownhillsaonb.org.uk

Blackdown Hills Marquee in

Local businesses, craftsmen and women offering unique products and services, come together in our marquee for Blackdown Hills businesses and supporters, in an array of exhibits and activities giving you a unique experience at the Honiton Show this year.

Once again we will show case rural crafts in front of the marquee. There will be a range of local craftsmen and women offering childrens' activities and demonstrations throughout the day. This will include Wildside Experience and Escot Education & Camp Wild! The Blackdown Hills Hedge Association and Blackdown Hills Woodland Association will also demonstrate techniques as well as providing details of Hedge events and courses run by their organisation.

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the lower field near the Food Hall at the Honiton Show

The Blackdown Hills marquee offers a diverse range of local interest organisations and businesses offering unique products and services from the area. See the list below.

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Blagdon Inn
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Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership
Tel 01823 680681
www.blackdownhillsaonb.org.uk

Blackdown Hills Business Association
www.bhba.org.uk or Tel 01823 681484.

Blackdown Hills Hedge Association
www.blackdownhills-hedge.org.uk

Blackdown Hills Wedding Initiative
Tel 07533340847 www.blackdownevents.co.uk

Signature Events by Claire Stepney
Mobile 07736 074235
www.event-consultancy.co.uk

Eleanor Yeo Florist
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Blackdown Hills Woodland Association
Tel 01823 663409 www.woodbiz.co.uk

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Dunkeswell Eco Business Park
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Eco Green Energy
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Ellises Farm
Tel 01823 680814 www.ellisesfarm.co.uk

Escot Gardens & Camp Wild
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Goodlife Gardeners
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Goren Organic
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Simon Connett Artist Blacksmith
Mob: 07800524450. www.simonconnett.com

South West Airfields Heritage Trust Ltd
Tel 01823 680692. www.southwestairfields.com

Stentwood Farm Tea Room
Tel 01823 681213 www.commonloaf.com

Suzandy Caning & Furniture
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T&M Arts and Crafts
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www.tandm-artsandcrafts.co.uk

Thelma Hulbert Gallery
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The Blackdown Hills marquee is coordinated by the Blackdown Hills Business Association. For further details of the activities and benefits of membership, please contact the BHBA at St Ivel House, Station Road, Hemyock, Cullompton, Devon EX15 3SJ. E: info@bhba.org.uk or Tel 01823 681484 www.bhba.org.uk. Membership is £50 per year and includes listings in two on-line directories, regular networking meetings, training events, socials, markets and shows and much more. The BHBA is now compiling a new edition of the Blackdown Hills Directory for 2015, the on-line version is available at www.blackdown-hills.co.uk With thanks to Jackson Plants for their continued support of the BHBA at the Honiton Show www.jacksonplants.co.uk

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A SPECIALIST MARKETING SERVICE FOR RURAL PROPERTIES

At Derbyshire's we recognise that village and rural properties require specialist marketing, and have a department which just specialises in these properties covering the villages and hamlets between Yeovil and Taunton. Our service was recently described by Marcus Whewell, CEO of the Guild of Professional Estate Agents, as *"uniquely filling the gap between where the High Street Agents finish and the Country House boys begin"*.

Tatworth, Chard- £999,950

Beautifully restored period former vicarage with 5 bedrooms and 2 ensuites, with separate 3 bedroom coachouse, and annexe. Set in landscaped gardens and paddock totalling 3.65 acres, various outbuildings with equestrian potential. Located on the edge of a sought-after village close to World Heritage Jurassic coast. EPC D.

Staplegrove, Taunton - £695,000

A 16th century grade II listed detached house with countryside views. 7 bedrooms, 2 en-suites, bathroom, lounge, drawing room, dining room, breakfast room, kitchen, hobbies room, reception room, utility room, rear porch, cellar, workshop, gardeners WC, store room, double garage and georgian landscaped gardens of approximately an acre. Oil fired central heating. EPC F.

Higher Chillington - £675,000

A Character cottage set in approximately 5 acres. Accommodation comprises: entrance hall, kitchen / breakfast room, utility room, cloakroom, lounge, study and conservatory. Master bedroom, three further bedrooms and family bathroom. Double garage, driveway set in approximately 5 acres belonging to the property consist of paddocks, woodland and formal gardens area . EPC D.

Lopenhead - £415,000

A detached and spacious bungalow set in grounds of approximately 1.67 acres with separate outbuildings that would suit a number of commercial or equestrian needs subject to planning. Comprises : Entrance hall, sitting room, dining room/snug, large kitchen/breakfast room, master bedroom with en suite shower room, an additional two bedrooms and a family bathroom. EPC F.

Wanted

- Mr C. is looking for a building plot/barn conversion/demolition project in or on the edge of The Blackdown Hills. Anything considered for an early retirement home.

- Mr and Mrs H. are looking for a large property with land for equestrian use within 10 miles of Chard, ideally in the Blackdown Hills. Budget is £1.2m

- Mrs D is looking for a property with up to 4 bedrooms with a paddock or land up to 6 acres for her horses (or the possibility to purchase adjacent land)

If you have a property that you think might be suitable, please contact Marcus Bond on 01460 63600

Shepton Beauchamp- £330,000

An immaculately presented detached four double bedroom house, situated on the edge of a popular village. Accommodation comprises: Four double bedrooms, master en-suite, family bathroom, upstairs office, lounge, dining room, conservatory, kitchen, utility room, cloakroom, garden, garage and driveway. The property benefits from oil fired central heating, double glazing and a feature open fire. EPC E.

London Property Exhibitions

As members of the Guild of Professional Estate Agents, our properties are marketed through the Guild's prestigious offices in Park Lane London throughout the year. However in addition we hold regular Somerset Property Exhibitions during which we completely take over and staff the Guild's offices. This provides us with a unique opportunity to sit down with London Buyers and discuss their individual requirements, effectively taking our property portfolio to London.

Marcus Bond - Village and Country

DERBYSHIRE'S
Village and Country

If you think your property would benefit from our specialist approach to rural properties please contact : Marcus Bond from The Village & Country team on 01460 63600.

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ARLA Association of Residential Letting Agents

Westford

An extended four bedroom unfurnished grade II listed Georgian house set within large private gardens. Garage. GFCH. Available beginning of September. EPC Band E. Tenant Fees Apply. Web Find: 68812

£1,100 pcm **Taunton 01823 447355**

Churchinford

A well presented 2 bedroom unfurnished mid terrace house situated in this quiet rural village. Allocated parking and small front garden. E.H. No pets. Tenant fees apply. Web Find: 68524

£550pcm **Taunton 01823 447355**

Chilliswood

A character 3 bedroom unfurnished Grade II* listed cottage with original features in a delightful rural location. Entrance hall, kitchen/dining room, sitting room, 2 shower rooms, bedroom 3/study, 2 double bedrooms. Shared garden and dedicated parking space. O.F.C.H. No DSS/smokers/pets/children. Available Immediately. Tenant Fees Apply. Web Find: 32582

£850pcm **Taunton 01823 447355**

Clayhanger

An unfurnished five bedroom house on the Devon/Somerset border. Kitchen/breakfast room. Dining room. Sitting room. Bathroom, cloakroom & ensuite. Double Garage. Gardens. Parking. OFCH. EPC Band D. Tenant Fees Apply. Web Find: 47916

£1,100 pcm **Tiverton 01884 232872**

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Sweethay

A pretty 2 bedroom unfurnished cottage situated in a delightful rural yet convenient location. Stables, land and sand school by separate negotiation. Garden and parking. E.H. Tenant fees apply. Web Find: 67243

£625pcm **Taunton 01823 447355**

Bishopswood

A fully refurbished 4 bedroom unfurnished detached stone fronted cottage situated in this pretty Blackdown Hills village. Gardens and garage. O.F.C.H. EPC Band D. Tenant fees apply. Web Find: 55903

£1,495pcm **Taunton 01823 447355**

Corfe

A pretty 3 bedroom unfurnished detached cottage situated in a rural position to let on a 6 months plus tenancy. Large garden and parking. O.F.C.H. EPC Band F. Tenant fees apply. Web Find: 67936

£795pcm **Taunton 01823 447355**

Wadeford

A substantial 4 bedroom unfurnished Grade II listed house with an extensive range of outbuildings and large garden. Ample parking. O.F.C.H. Tenant fees apply. Web Find: 68411

£1,250pcm **Taunton 01823 447355**

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The West Country Letting Agent

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Broadhembury

A detached contemporary barn conversion offering well planned versatile accommodation with 4 bedrooms and large open plan ground floor accommodation set in approximately 0.4 acre of private gardens and parking. EPC Band C. Web Find: 62389

Guide £560,000 **Honiton 01404 45885**

Combe Raleigh 18 Acres

A spacious 5-bed farmhouse with courtyard of barns and equestrian facilities. Large farmhouse kitchen with Aga, 2 receptions, 2nd kitchen & reception room with adjacent shower room with annexe potential (stp). EPC Band G. Web Find: 65822

Guide £925,000 **Honiton 01404 45885**

Blackmoor 0.9 Acres

An individual split level four/five bedroom detached country house enjoying spectacular views across Taunton Vale. Porch, Reception Hall, Dining Room, WC, Sitting Room, Kitchen, Utility, 4 Bedrooms (1 En Suite) Study and Family Bathroom. EPC Band: D. Web Find: 68478

Guide £550,000 **Wellington 01823 662822**

Nr Blackborough

A wonderful four bedroom detached Barn Conversion recently refurbished and located within the heart of the Blackdown Hills. Sitting Room, Kitchen/Dining Room, 4 Bedrooms (3 En-suite), Utility, Shower Room and Study Areas. EPC Band C. Web Find: 57006

Guide £550,000 **Wellington 01823 662822**

Sampford Arundel

Extended four bedroom detached barn conversion located in a fine rural yet accessible location with distant views. Kitchen & utility, living room & garden room, study/Bed 4, 1 en-suite & family bathroom. EPC Band D. Web Find: 44190

Offers in Excess of £450,000 **Wellington 01823 662822**

Nr Yarcombe

A well presented individual attached barn conversion with rural views. 3 Bedrooms (master en suite), farmhouse style kitchen, 2 reception rooms and conservatory. Attached double garage. Stunning gardens. EPC Band D. Web Find: 57406

Guide £425,000 **Honiton 01404 45885**

Dunkeswell 0.7 Acres

Substantial detached 4 bedroom house in large gardens with potential annexe. 3 Reception Rooms, kitchen/breakfast room, study, ground floor bedroom, utility. Garage, greenhouse and garden stores. EPC Band D. Web Find: 63027

Guide £395,000 **Honiton 01404 45885**

Dunkeswell 0.6 Acres

A Grade II Listed three bedroom cottage with large gardens situated in the Blackdown Hills. Entrance Hall, Kitchen, Sitting Room, Dining Room, WC, 3 Bedrooms and Bathroom. Web Find: 63559

Guide £335,000 **Wellington 01823 662822**

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

For advice and assistance on a variety of issues including:

- Valuations
- Rural Planning and Diversification
- Renewables
- Compulsory Purchase and Compensations
- Landlord and Tenant Matters
- Estate Management
- Agri-Environment Schemes

Contact Mark Neason on 01823 662822

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